

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 27, 2005.

Per the above amendment, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice for future prosecution; and claims 3, 5, and 8 each have been amended.

The pending claims were rejected under Vollone et al (US 6847778).

One of the features of the instant invention, for example the apparatus set forth by amended claim 1, is that a first head retrieval reproduction means would, when the program head retrieval command is performed by the head retrieval command input means, obtain the present time information generated by the time information generating means and perform head retrieval reproduction of the program signal recorded at one of (1) time of 00-minute in an hour and (2) time of 30-minute in an hour which is previous to the present time represented by the obtained present time information, and which is closer to the present time than the other is.

The above feature, particularly the underlined portion is important, in that it causes the following operation steps to take place. For example, in the case where the program head retrieval command is performed when the present time is 12:18, the head retrieval reproduction of the program signal recorded at 12:00 is performed. In the case where the program head retrieval command is performed when the present time is 12:28, the head retrieval reproduction of the program signal recorded at 12:00 is performed. In the case where the program head retrieval command is performed when the present time is 12:38, the head retrieval reproduction of the program signal recorded at 12:30 (rather than 12:00) is performed. In the case where the program head retrieval command is performed when the present time is 12:58, the head retrieval reproduction of the program signal recorded at 12:30 is performed. Without limitation, see for example the disclosure of the instant application starting on page 50, line 26.

Many programs begin at the start of the hour or at the half hour mark, i.e., at time 00 minute or 30 minutes after the hour. Accordingly, the above feature allows an easy search for the start of such programs. This is an advantage provided by the apparatus of amended claim 1.

The above inventive feature is not taught by Vallone et al (US 6,847,778).

Regarding head retrieval reproduction, the Examiner refers to Vallone, column 22, lines 20-33, and column 19, lines 26-27 (a replay button 1415). It is respectfully submitted that these portions of Vallone do not teach the above feature of the invention, particularly the above underlined portion of for example the apparatus of amended claim 1. Furthermore, the system of Vallone can not provide the above noted advantage.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Vallone.

Claims 5 and 8 each have been amended to have limitations similar to the above discussed feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 5 and 8 are also patentable over Vallone.

In view of the foregoing, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and pass the case to issue at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 3, 2006